

Message Text

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R 211230Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7462

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 4798

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR YO CH

SUBJ: VISIT OF YUGOSLAV VETERANS DELEGATION TO PRC

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. POLITIKA AND BORBA JUL 20 REPORT THAT A DELEGATION FROM THE FEDERATION OF VETERAN'S ASSOCIATIONS OF YUGOSLAVIA (SUBNOR) HAS COMPLETED ONE WEEK OF TOURING IN NORTHEAST CHINA AND WAS RECEIVED ON JUL 19 IN PEKING BY MARSHAL HSU HSIAN CHIEN. POLITIKA STATES THAT DELEGATION, HEADED BY SUBNOR PRESIDENT, GENERAL OF THE ARMY KOSTA NADJ, IS "THE FIRST DELEGATION OF ANY SOCIAL-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION TO HAVE VISITED CHINA IN THE LAST 19 YEARS". DELEGATION VISITED SHENYANG, CHANCHUN AND TALIAN.

2. IN REPORTING JUL 10 DEPARTURE OF DELEGATION FOR PEKING BORBA (JUL 11) STATED THAT YUGOSLAVS WERE INVITED BY PRC'S ORGANIZATION FOR WAR VETERANS. POLITIKA REPORTING ARRIVAL IN PEKING NEXT DAY SAID DELEGATION WERE GUESTS OF PRC MINISTRY OF DEFENSE SINCE CHINESE DO NOT HAVE CENTRAL VETERANS ORGANIZATION. POLITIKA (JUL 12) STATED THAT HOST WAS DEPUTY CHIEF PRC GENERAL STAFF WU HSIU CHIEN, WHO ACCORDING TO POLITIKA WAS PRC AMBASSADOR IN BELGRADE
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1955-58, LOST POWER DURING CULTURAL REVOLUTION, BUT WAS

RESURRECTED SOME TIME IN 1974. ACCORDING TO EARLY BORBA ACCOUNT, PROGRAM WAS TO INCLUDE DISCUSSIONS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN TO VETERANS AND COOPERATIONS BETWEEN YUGOSLAV AND CHINESE VETERAN GROUPS.

3. POLITIKA JUL 20, HOWEVER, SAYS THAT IN THE TALKS THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION "OF THE CHINESE CONCEPT OF ALL-PEOPLES' DEFENSE" AND THAT "THE HOSTS SHOWED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE YUGOSLAV SYSTEM OF ALL-PEOPLES' DEFENSE". DELEGATION VISITED SEVERAL PEOPLES' MILITIA AND MILITARY UNITS INCLUDING THIRD DIVISION OF THE PEKING GARRISON. DURING A RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR, GENERALS NADJ AND WU "EXCHANGED FRIENDLY TOASTS". IN COURSE OF VISIT YUGOSLAVS WERE ALSO BRIEFED ON DEVELOPMENT OF CHINESE INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

4. POLITIKA STATES THAT BOTH THE HOSTS AND THE GUESTS FELT THAT THIS VISIT "CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF UNIVERSAL, FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PEOPLES, ARMIES AND VETERANS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES". IN ADDITION TO NADJ, OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION ARE SUBNOR SEC-GEN IKO MIRKOVIC, SUBNOR PRESIDENT FOR SERBIA COL-GEN MOMCILO DUGALIC, PRESIDENT FOR BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA NIKO MIHALJEVIC, AND SECRETARY FOR SUBNOR'S COMMISSION FOR INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS BRANKO GOLOVIC. END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. COMMENT: WE ARE INTERESTED IN NATURE AND TIMING OF VISIT, ESPECIALLY IF IT IS FIRST OF ITS KIND IN 19 YEARS. STORY HAS RECEIVED MODEST BUT NOT INOBTRUSIVE COVERAGE IN LOCAL PRESS. AS ORGANIZATION OF PARTISANS SUBNOR'S INFLUENCE WITHIN YUGOSLAVIA IS CONSIDERABLE, ONLY A LEVEL OR TWO BELOW THAT OF PARTY ITSELF. ALONG WITH RECENT BIJEDIC VISIT, THIS TRIP PART OF GRADUALLY IMPROVING CHINESE-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS-WHICH CHINESE HAVE STOPPED SHORT OF ESTABLISHMENT OF PARTY-TO-PARTY RELATIONS IN PAST BUT COULD BE EDGING TOWARD BY ACCEPTANCE OF THIS SOCIAL-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION. REFERENCE IN JUL 20 ARTICLES TO MUTUAL INTEREST IN "ALL-PEOPLES' DEFENSE" IS ALSO INTERESTING AT THIS TIME AS SOVIETS HAVE INDICATED SENSITIVITY TO RECENT
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YUGOSLAV EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THIS ASPECT OF THEIR SECURITY. DISCUSSING IT WITH CHINESE CARRIES PROVOCATIVE CONNOTATIONS. SILBERMAN

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